

**REMARKS**

Claims 4-13, 15-40, 43-68, 70-81 and 83-88 are pending in the application. Claims 4-13, 15, 30-40, 43, 51-68, 70-81 and 83-88 are withdrawn. Claim 44 is rejected. Claims 16-29 and 45-50 contain allowable subject matter. Claims 16, 18, 24-25 and 45-50 are objected to.

Claim 44 is rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Stump et al. (US 5835271). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Stump discloses multi-sided retroreflectors. FIG. 2 shows a multi-sided retroreflector 20' having an upper layer of microspheres 22 and a lower layer of microspheres 24, each fixed in a binder layer 30. The binder layers are joined back-to-back by an adhesive 33. A reflecting layer 40 is deposited on the rear surface of the microspheres 22, 24. A transparent film 42 is applied to the multi-sided retroreflector 20' to create an air gap 41 and encapsulate the microspheres 22, 24.

Those skilled in the art will understand that the air/glass interface (41, 22) in the Stump device of FIG. 2 functions to collect the light (or transmitting function as noted by the Examiner). That is, the air/glass interface does not function as the means for retroreflection. Rather, light transmitted through the microsphere 22 is reflected at the reflecting layer 40. Since there is little to no direct contact shown between binder layer 30 and those microspheres that are air-backed (e.g., the three microspheres on the left and the one on the right in the upper layer of FIG. 2), binder layer 30 cannot be said to function as wetting-out such microspheres and plays no role whatsoever in the retroreflection. Those microspheres that are shown as surrounded or embedded in the binder layer 30 (e.g., the remaining microspheres in the upper layer of FIG. 2) have no air gap.

In contrast, the present invention of claim 44 recites a method for forming an optical structure that includes providing a plurality of two-sided optical components along a substrate, wherein at least one side of substantially all of the components is air-backed and the other side of substantially all of the components is substantially wetted-out. As noted, those microspheres in Stump that may be considered as air-backed have a reflecting layer 40 on their rear surfaces and

are not wetted-out by binder layer 30. Those other microspheres that are embedded in the binder layer have no air-backing. Thus, there is no teaching in Stump of forming an optical structure with two-sided optical components "wherein at least one side of substantially all of the components is air-backed and the other side of substantially all of the components is substantially wetted-out."

Applicants respectfully request rejoinder of withdrawn Claims 51-57, as such claims should be allowed in view of the patentability of Claim 44.

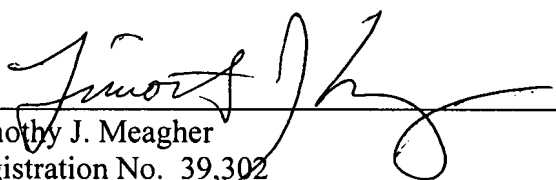
### CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is believed that all claims are in condition for allowance, and it is respectfully requested that the application be passed to issue. If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this case, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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